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Applicants: Yoshiharu Ogawa and Hiroshi Koriyama

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1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, N.Y. 10036
(212) 278-0400
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Office of Petitions
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Crystal Plaza 4
2201 South Clark Place, Room 3C23
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to the applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §1.97(a)-(d), Applicants hereby submit this Information Disclosure Statement to supplement the Information Disclosure Statement Applicants filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office on June 25, 2003 concurrently with the application. A Form PTO-1449 is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

The subject application is a continuation of PCT International Application No. PCT/JP01/11646. Copies of (a) the cover page of International Application Publication No. WO 03/059641 A1 corresponding to International Application No. PCT/JP01/11646, and (b) an English-language translation of an International Search Report dated March 19, 2002 in connection with International Application No. PCT/JP01/11646 are attached hereto as **Exhibit B**. A copy of the sole reference cited in the March 19, 2002 International Search Report and a copy of the Japanese-language International Search Report were attached as Exhibit 2 and Exhibit B, respectively, to Applicant's June 25, 2003 Information Disclosure Statement.

A copy of a Japanese-language International Preliminary Examination Report, and an English-language translation thereof, dated August 13, 2003, in connection with International Application No. PCT/JP01/11646 is attached hereto as **Exhibit C**.

The Examiner is respectfully referred to the following references cited in the International Preliminary Examination Report:

- (a) International patent application publication no. WO 91/04157, published April 4, 1991 (**Exhibit 1**);
- (b) Japanese patent application publication no. 7-505341, published June 15, 1995 (**Exhibit 2**);
- (c) Japanese patent application publication no. 2000-71415, published March 7, 2000 (**Exhibit 3**);
- (d) Japanese patent application publication no. 2000-238457, published September 5, 2000 (**Exhibit 4**); and
- (e) Japanese patent application publication no. 2001-171256, published June 26, 2001 (**Exhibit 5**).

Copies of the references (a)-(e) are attached hereto as **Exhibits 1-5**, respectively.

A copy of a Japanese-language Written Opinion, and an English-language translation thereof, dated February 25, 2003, in connection with International Application No. PCT/JP01/11646 is attached hereto as **Exhibit D**. References (c), (d) and (e) listed above are also cited in the February 25, 2003 Written Opinion.

The Examiner is respectfully referred to the following additional references cited in the Written Opinion:

- (f) Japanese patent application publication no. 63-868,

- published January 6, 1988 (**Exhibit 6**);
- (g) Japanese patent application publication no. 6-219078, published August 9, 1994 (**Exhibit 7**); and
- (h) Japanese patent application publication no. 10-272860, published October 13, 1998 (**Exhibit 8**).

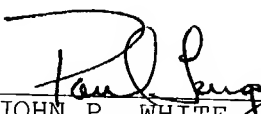
Copies of the references (f)-(h) are attached hereto as **Exhibits 6-8**, respectively.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted concurrently with a Petition For Withdrawal Of The Application From Issue Pursuant To 37 C.F.R. §1.313(c)(2) and with a Request For Continued Examination.

No fees are believed to be required for this Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



JOHN P. WHITE, Reg. No. 28,678
PAUL TENG, Reg. No. 40,837
Attorneys for Applicants
Cooper & Dunham LLP
1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
Tel.: (212) 278-0400

